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# Business & Technology Update

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## New Resources and Opportunities

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### Advancing Grid Protection & Control for Electric Cooperatives

The recent fundamental transformation of the electric grid from a passive, unidirectional system to a more active, distributed, and bidirectional system is creating operational challenges that require co-ops to rethink how they plan, protect, and control their systems. Our new Grid Protection initiative is developing resources to assist co-ops, starting with this new report that examines key protection and control challenges, along with technologies available in the co-op space.

- [Report](#)
- [Topic Webpage](#)
- Contact: [Ravindra Singh](#) and [David Farmer](#)

### Join the NRECA Grid Protection and Control Task Force

NRECA invites all co-ops to join our Grid Protection and Control Task Force to work with NRECA to provide input on initiatives and reporting, and to explore case studies and pilot implementation opportunities. Contact: Ravindra Singh at: [Ravindra.Singh@nreca.coop](mailto:Ravindra.Singh@nreca.coop)

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### ‘Critical Part of Our Future Portfolio:’ Co-ops Eye Small Modular Reactors

Small modular reactors have long intrigued electric co-ops, with surging power demand underscoring their potential. While large-scale deployment is still years away, incremental progress—and a promising case study in Tennessee—has co-op leaders energized. Learn more in this month's RE Magazine cover story, and visit our topic page on nuclear power for additional resources.

- [Article](#)
- [Nuclear Power Webpage](#)
- Contact: [Daniel Walsh](#)



## Cyber Goals Achievements to be Recognized at Co-op Cyber Tech

NRECA's Co-op Cyber Tech conference is just around the corner — **June 3–5 in Indianapolis**. Join hundreds of technical cyber professionals within government, industry, and cooperatives for this event designed for rural electric co-op staff who have cybersecurity responsibilities.

Co-op members are invited to the **Cyber Goals Luncheon on June 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the Grand Ballroom. During this event, we'll discuss the Cyber Goals program and celebrate co-ops that have completed at least one of the two Cyber Goals levels. Be sure to update your co-op's goals status so we can recognize you if you have completed Level One and/or Level Two of the Cyber Goals. And, don't forget to add the luncheon to your Co-op Cyber Tech registration.

- [Co-op Cyber Tech Information and Registration](#)
- [Cyber Goals Website](#)
- Contact: [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop)

## Co-ops Continue to Lead Industry in AMI Deployment

As advanced communications have become increasingly important for electric system operations, cooperatives have continued to transition from Automated Meter Reading (AMR) to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). According to updated analysis by NRECA, adoption of AMI among electric co-ops has been steadily increasing, with an average of around 1.1 million meters added annually. Co-ops have deployed AMI meters to replace AMR and standard meters, as well as new meters to serve new consumer-members. Co-ops continue to lead the industry in AMI deployment, with 87% of co-op meters now using AMI, compared to 83% for the rest of the industry. Find out more in this advisory:

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Anthony Buckley](#)

## Serving Large Loads and Data Centers

The rapid expansion of data centers, advanced manufacturing, electrification of transportation fleets, and other large energy users is bringing new opportunities — and new complexities — to electric cooperatives. NRECA has a number of resources to help cooperatives navigate the full spectrum of large load development, from initial engagement and interconnection studies, to load forecasting, risk mitigation, and long-term strategic planning.

- [Serving Large Loads Website](#)
- Contact: [Allison Hamilton](#)

## Join the NRECA Large Loads and Data Centers Task Force

We invite all co-op members to apply to join NRECA's Large Loads and Data Centers Task Force, a peer network focused on helping co-ops navigate the rapid growth of large commercial and industrial loads, particularly data centers: [More Information](#)

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## Startup Alley Opportunity at PowerXchange and TechAdvantage

After a successful debut this year, NRECA is continuing Startup Alley for the 2027 PowerXchange and TechAdvantage conference. We provide a dedicated space in the Expo to early-stage small companies with products and services of value to electric co-ops. This is an unparalleled opportunity to connect with over 8,000 conference attendees, including more than 2,000 co-op leaders and staff. A maximum of 15 companies will be chosen through an application process. Interested startup companies are encouraged to visit our website for more information, and co-ops are encouraged to share this opportunity with startup businesses in their areas. **Deadline for application is July 31**, and notification of acceptance will occur in early October.

- [Startup Alley Website](#)
  - Contact: [startup.alley@nreca.coop](mailto:startup.alley@nreca.coop)
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## Invitation to Participate in Rural Energy Recovery from Waste

Project Planning for waste-to-energy projects is challenging, largely due to uncertainty surrounding waste streams. Their characteristics can be unique to specific regions of the country and dynamic, reducing the reliability of feasibility analyses and increasing project risk. To help address the uncertainty in the planning process surrounding potential waste streams, the REROW team is collaborating with co-ops and their communities to create tools and resources for electric cooperatives. NRECA offers three ways that co-ops and other industry stakeholders can participate in this important initiative.

- [REROW Website](#)
  - Contact: [Lisa Slaughter](#)
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## 2026 National Compensation System Available: Same-day Access to Data

One of the most useful salary benchmarking resources in the industry, the National Compensation System (NCS) provides the most comprehensive co-op-specific salary information compiled from NRECA member electric co-ops across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure cooperative.com login, our point-of-sale feature allows access to the data within minutes! Simply place your order online and pay with a credit card. Order today for \$895.

- [Order the 2026 Distribution NCS](#)
  - [Order the 2026 G&T NCS](#)
  - Contact: [Beth Wray](#)
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## Upcoming Conferences

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## NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit

Register today for the NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit, **June 1-3, Washington, D.C.** A free benefit of NRECA Broadband participation, this annual event will provide critical updates on the issues impacting broadband deployment and offer meaningful engagement with peers, NRECA leaders, federal agency staff and other key contacts.

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Loriane Ngarambe](#)

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## AREGC Conference

Celebrating 75 years of cooperative collaboration, the Association of Rural Electric Generating Cooperatives (AREGC) provides opportunity for industry stakeholders to discuss generation challenges and solutions with their peers. This year's milestone event, happening **June 1-4 in Branson, Missouri**, is hosted by Associated Electric Cooperative and will feature a technical program developed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Join more than 200 cooperative and industry professionals for focused discussion on the most pressing issues facing generation. Each day will center on a critical industry priority, with expert-led sessions and panel discussions designed for practical application. Prior to the kick-off Welcome Reception on June 1, there is opportunity to participate in a golf outing at Big Cedar's premier course, [Ozarks National](#), or enjoy a golf cart tour through the [Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail](#).

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- [AREGC Website](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

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## Co-op Cyber Tech 2026

Don't miss your opportunity to learn about the latest cyber challenges facing our industry and how NRECA is helping co-ops protect their systems and the grid. NRECA's Co-op Cyber Tech conference on **June 3-5 in Indianapolis** brings together cybersecurity professionals from electric cooperatives to explore and address the latest cybersecurity challenges facing the industry. With eight workshops and 30 breakout sessions, attendees will gain practical strategies to strengthen systems, safeguard critical infrastructure and build greater cyber resilience. The Cyber Tech Learning Village features new activities focused on skill-building and hands-on learning, while the interactive badges enhance both learning and networking. Register today!

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop)

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## Call for 2027 TechAdvantage Proposals

TechAdvantage brings together technology leaders, engineers, IT professionals, operations experts, supply chain leaders, broadband professionals and cooperative executives to explore the innovations shaping the future of electric cooperatives. We invite you to share practical solutions, real-world experiences and forward-thinking ideas that will help co-ops navigate rapid technological change at 2027 TechAdvantage, **February 14-17, San**

**Diego, California.** Your expertise can make a real impact. We encourage you to submit a proposal **by June 1** and be part of this premier industry event.

- [More Information - Overall Review and Selection Criteria](#)
- [Submit Your Proposal](#)
- [Contact: Alison Kent](#)

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## Registration Open: 2026 Cooperative University

Join us **October 26-30 in Louisville, Kentucky** for the professional development and networking event for all electric cooperative employees. With courses offered across three NRECA professional programs (SMDP, CCEP and CKAE®), you can select from various co-op-specific courses based on core, role-specific and supervisory, management and leadership competencies to enhance your business and technology skillset all in one location—minimizing cost to your co-op.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- [Contact: Danielle Jackson](#)

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## Professional Development Courses & Webinars

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### Cooperative Technical Professional Certificate Program

Register now for the new Cooperative Technical Professional Certificate (CTPC) program. Join us in-person **September 21-25 in Madison, Wisconsin**. Designed specifically for cooperative technical professionals in IT, engineering and operations, this program will elevate your impact by building your enterprise skills to get you a seat at the table.

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- [Contact: Charu Gupta](#)

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### Career Essentials and Management Development Programs

NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for co-op staff career development. Some upcoming highlights include:

**Live, online courses:**

- [753.1 Emotional Intelligence Essentials for Supervisors and Managers](#), June 8 & 9, 1–4 pm ET, Last day to register: June 5
- [5132.05 Mastering Presentation Skills: Engage, Inspire and Influence with Confidence](#), June 16, 1-4 pm ET, Last day to register: June 15
- [5302.1 Navigating Emotions in the Workplace: Transforming Your Relationships](#), June 16 - 17, 1-4 pm ET, Last day to register: June 15
- [724.1 Restoring Emotional Safety and Trust in the Workplace](#), June 22 & 23, 1–4 pm ET, Last day to register: June 17

- [752.1 NEST Approach for Leading Others to Success](#) (NEST = Needs, Environment, Strategies, Trajectory), July 13 & 14, 1–4 pm ET, Last day to register: July 9

**LMS-based courses/ Self-paced, instructor-guided:**

- [710.1 Stepping into Your Supervisory Role: Learning to Lead](#), Access Dates: July 1 - 30 (30 days). Last day to register: June 29
- [711.1 Everyone Communicates; Few Connect: Tools for Bridging the Gap](#), Access Dates: July 1 - 30 (30 days). Last day to register: June 29
- [712.1 You Can't Do It Alone: Building a Strong Team](#), Access Dates: July 1 - 30 (30 days). Last day to register: June 29

**Self-Paced, On-Demand Courses:**

Available for 30 days from date of purchase. Group rates are available.

- [\(761.1\) Foundations of Practical Leadership](#) – New course
- [\(760.05\) The Science of Emotional Intelligence](#)
- [\(762.05\) Co-op Members, Boards, CEOs and Employees: Building a Strong Foundation for Success](#)

The [full schedule](#) is available for the [2026 Supervisor and Manager Development Program \(SMDP\)](#) and [Cooperative Career Essentials Program \(CCEP\)](#) online courses. The schedule also includes the dates for the annual [Cooperative University](#) event, where SMDP and CCEP courses are held in person.

The [CCEP](#) focuses on the core skills that all employees need, regardless of their title or tenure. The [SMDP](#) focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others.

- Contact for SMDP: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)
- Contact for CCEP: [Danielle Jackson](#) and [Ashley McCants](#)

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**Discover the value of NRECA membership.** Learn More.  
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